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(54) **ANIMAL CONTAINMENT AND TRANSPORT ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF USE**

(71) Applicant: **Robert Rivas**, San Diego, CA (US)

(72) Inventor: **Robert Rivas**, San Diego, CA (US)

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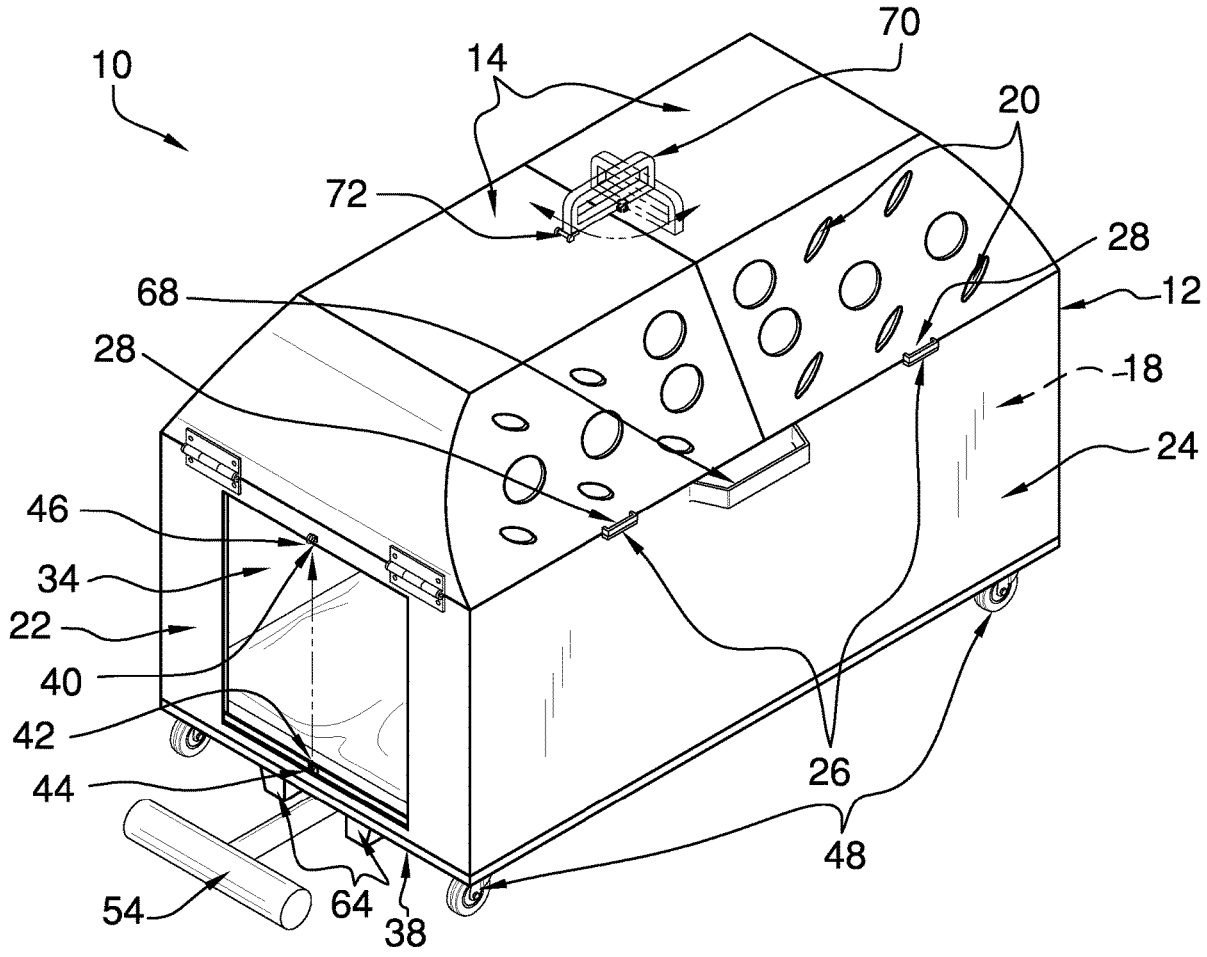
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An animal containment and transport assembly for transporting a pet includes a housing and a pair of covers. A top of the housing is open. The covers are hingedly engaged to the housing and are positioned to selectively close the top. The housing and the pair of covers thus define an interior space that can contain an animal. The covers are selectively engageable to the housing so that the covers are fixedly positioned over the top. A plurality of wheels is engaged to a bottom of the housing. A pull handle is engaged to and is selectively extensible from the housing. The pull handle can be grasped in a hand of a user, positioning the user to pull on the pull handle to locomote the housing across a surface.



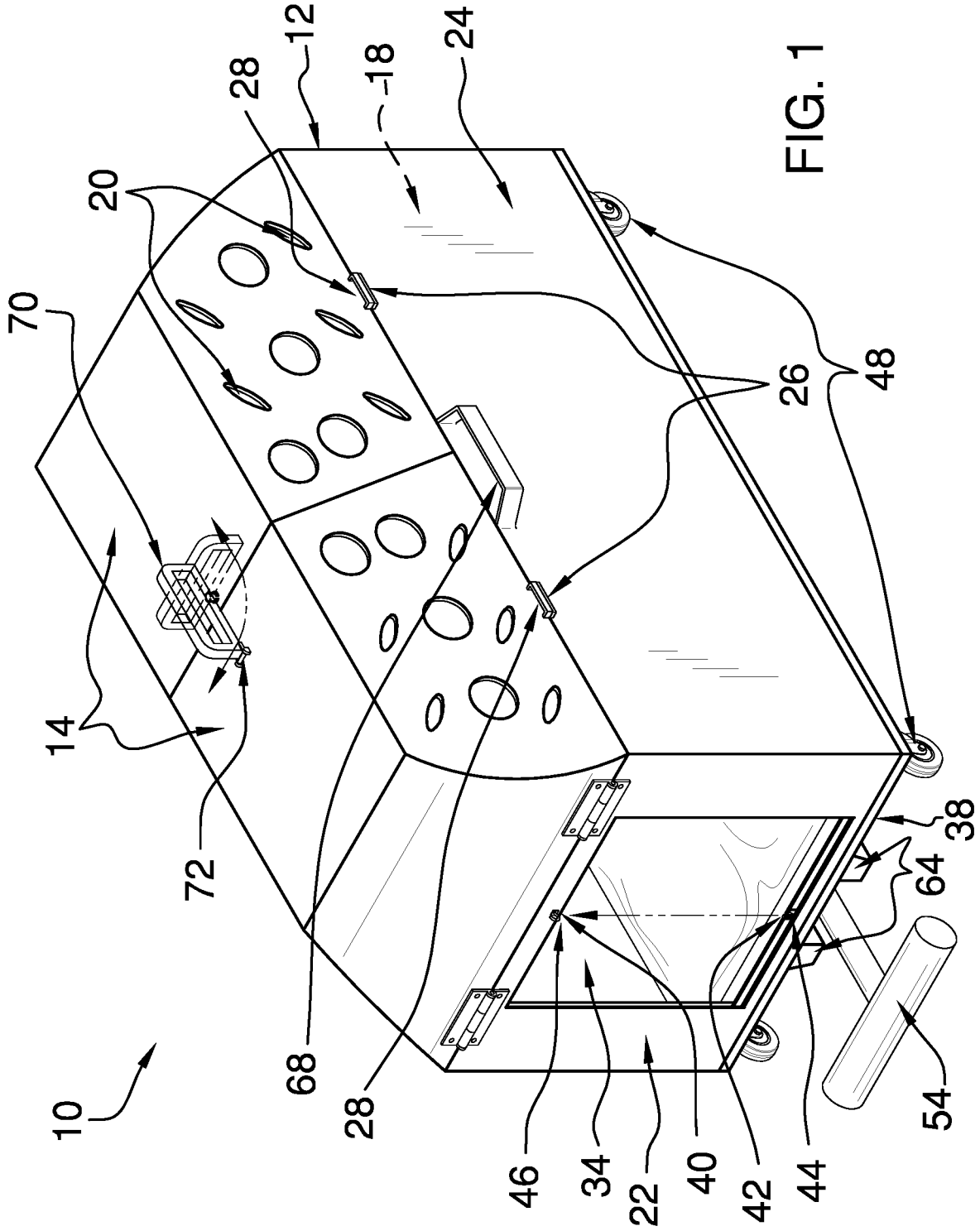


FIG. 1

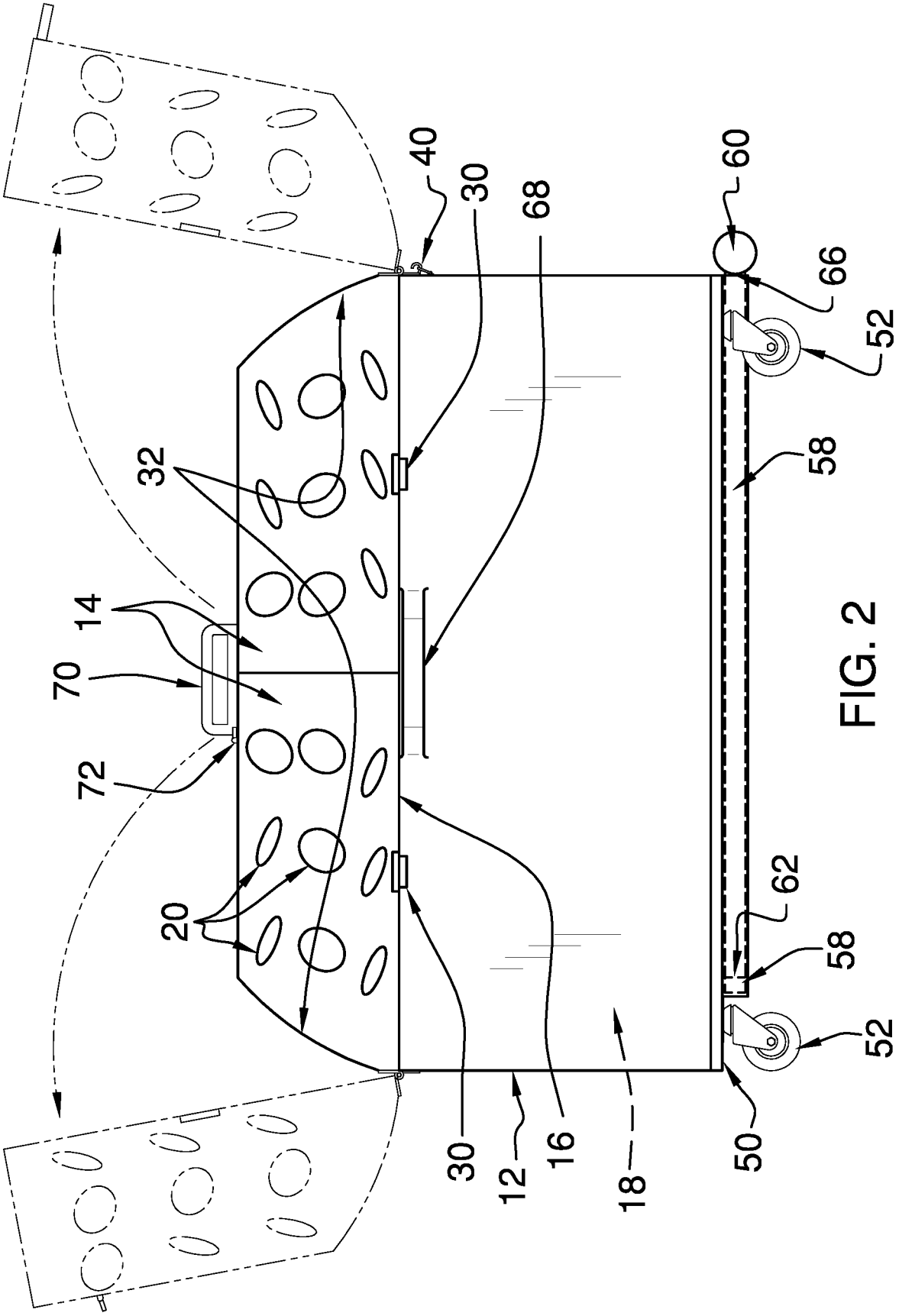


FIG. 2

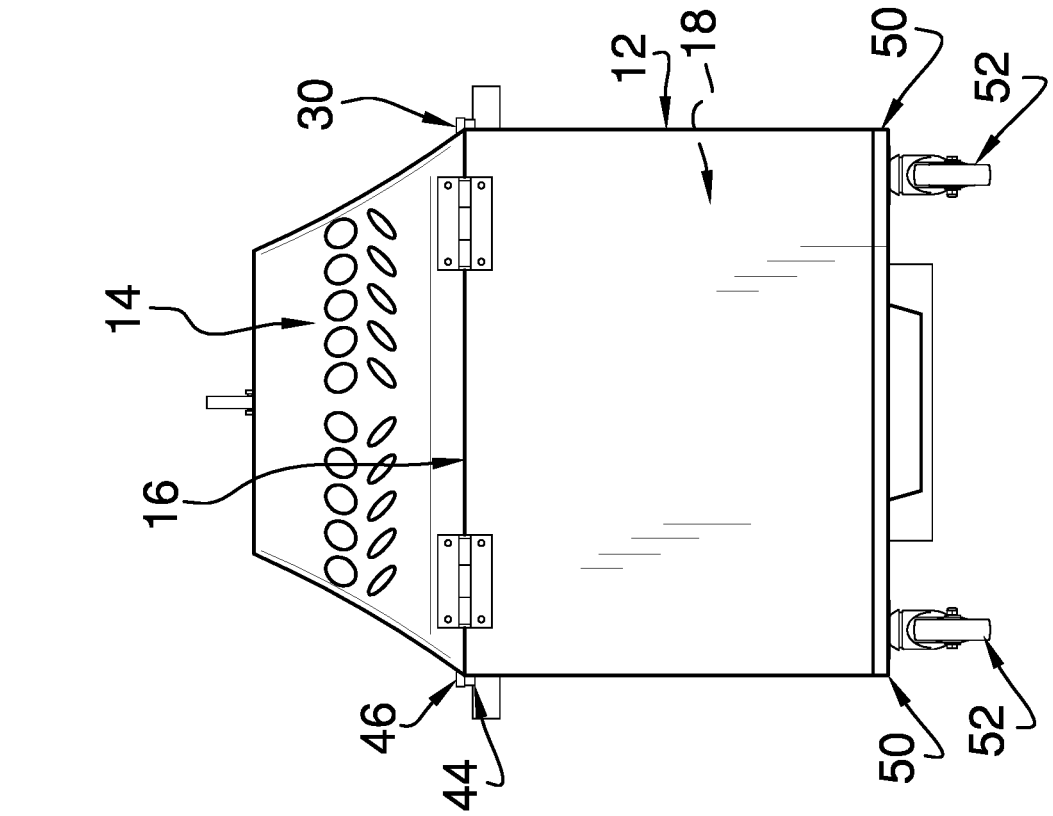


FIG. 4

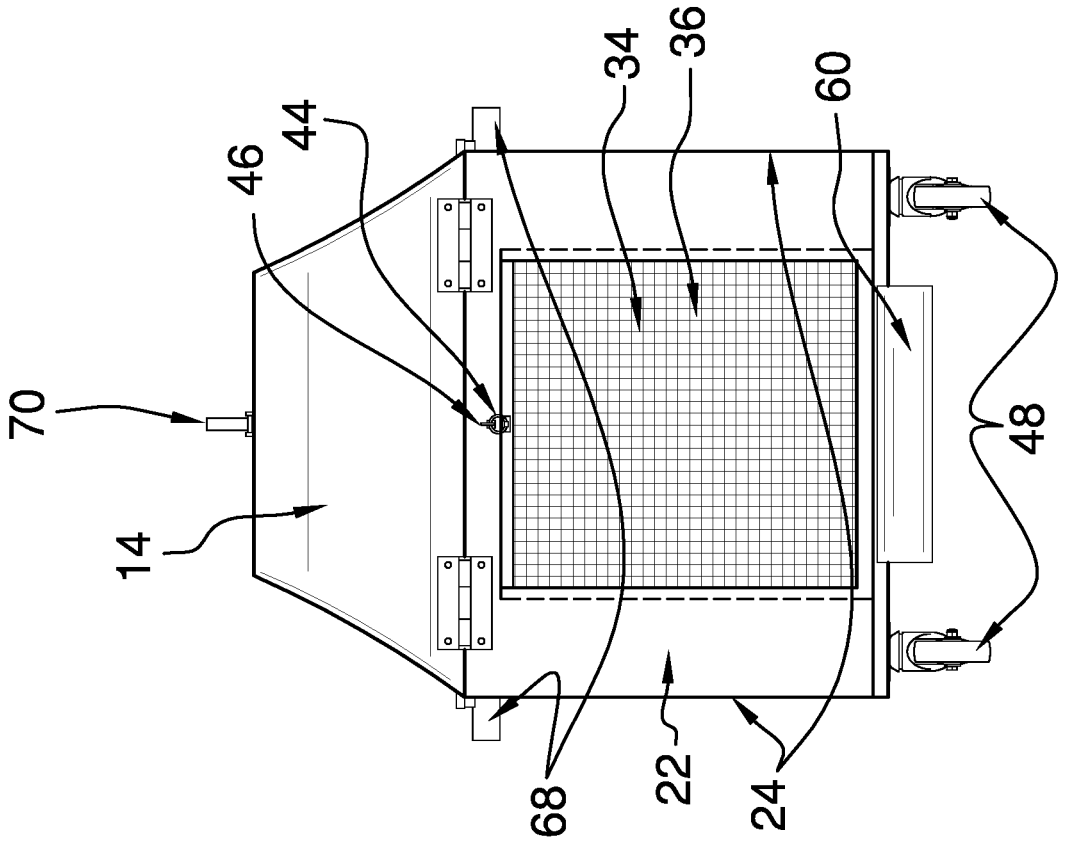


FIG. 3

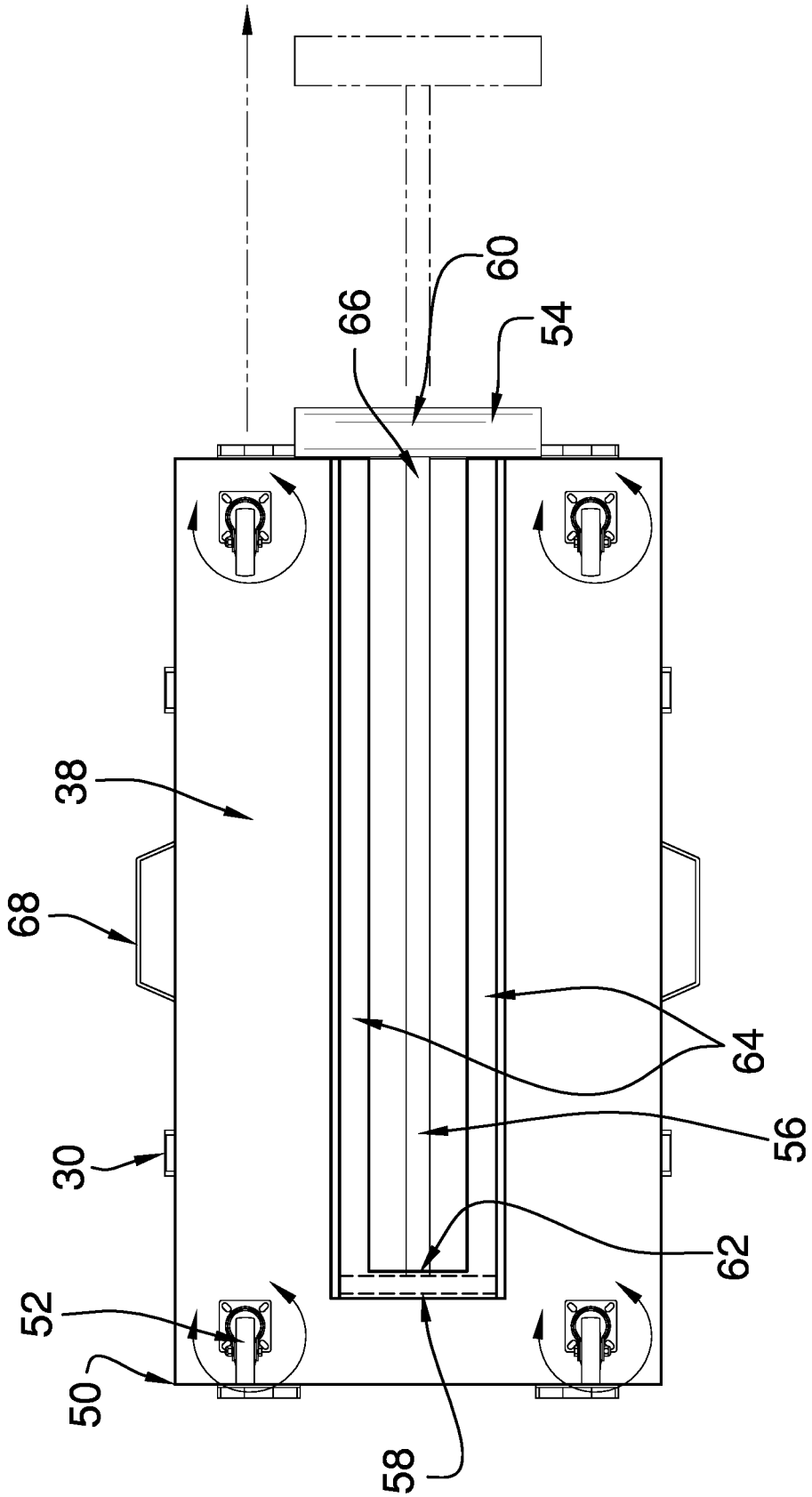


FIG. 5

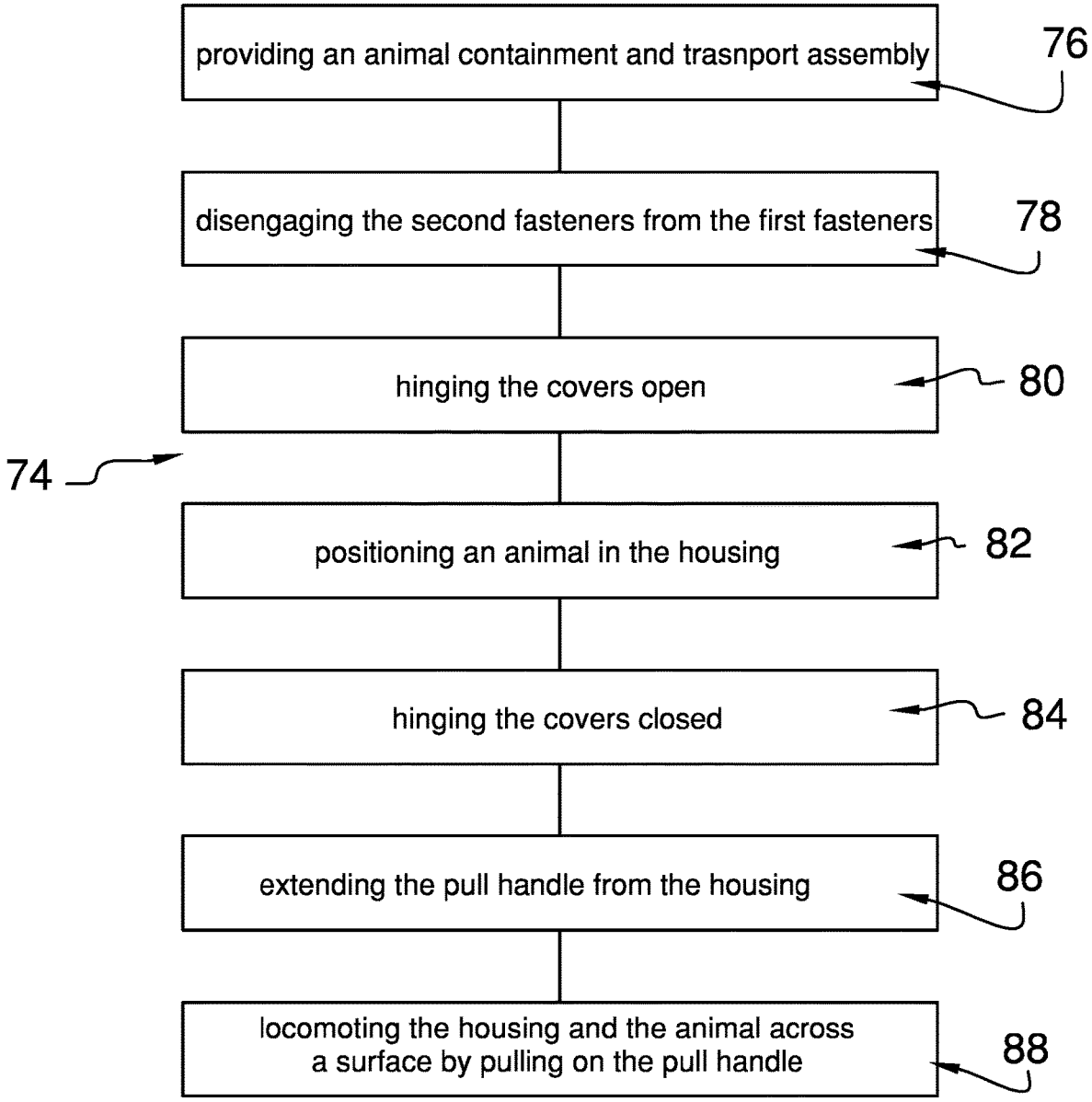

providing an animal containment and trasnport assembly
76
disengaging the second fasteners from the first fasteners
78
hinging the covers open
80
74
positioning an animal in the housing
82
hinging the covers closed
84
extending the pull handle from the housing
86
locomoting the housing and the animal across a surface by pulling on the pull handle
88

FIG. 6

ANIMAL CONTAINMENT AND TRANSPORT ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF USE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not Applicable

THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT

[0003] Not Applicable

INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC OR AS A TEXT FILE VIA THE OFFICE ELECTRONIC FILING

[0004] SYSTEM.

[0005] Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING PRIOR DISCLOSURES BY THE INVENTOR OR JOINT INVENTOR

[0006] Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention.

[0007] The disclosure relates to animal containment assemblies and more particularly pertains to a new animal containment assembly for transporting a pet. The present invention discloses an animal containment assembly comprising a wheeled housing with an open top that is closable by a pair of hinged covers, and which has an extendable handle for pulling the animal containment assembly across a surface.

(2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

[0008] The prior art relates to animal containment assemblies. Prior art animal containment assemblies generally comprise substantially cuboid housings with a gated opening at one end. The housings may have wheels and handles. The housings also may be collapsible or comprise two separable and nestable sections. What is lacking in the prior art is an animal containment assembly comprising a wheeled housing with an open top that is closable by a pair of hinged covers, and which has an extendable handle for pulling the animal containment assembly across a surface.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] An embodiment of the disclosure meets the needs presented above by generally comprising a housing and a pair of covers. A top of the housing is open. The covers are hingedly engaged to the housing and are positioned to selectively close the top. The housing and the pair of covers thus define an interior space that is configured to contain an animal. The covers are selectively engageable to the housing so that the covers are fixedly positioned over the top. A plurality of wheels is engaged to a bottom of the housing. A pull handle is engaged to and is selectively extensible from the housing. The pull handle is configured to be grasped in a hand of a user, positioning the user to pull on the pull handle to locomote the housing across a surface.

[0010] There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the disclosure in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the disclosure that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

[0011] The objects of the disclosure, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the disclosure, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S)

[0012] The disclosure will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

[0013] FIG. **1** is an isometric perspective view of an animal containment and transport assembly according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0014] FIG. **2** is a side view of an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0015] FIG. **3** is a front view of an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0016] FIG. **4** is a rear view of an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0017] FIG. **5** is a bottom view of an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0018] FIG. **6** is a flow diagram for a method utilizing an embodiment of the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0019] With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to FIGS. **1** through **6** thereof, a new animal containment assembly embodying the principles and concepts of an embodiment of the disclosure and generally designated by the reference numeral **10** will be described.

[0020] As best illustrated in FIGS. **1** through **6**, the animal containment and transport assembly **10** generally comprises a housing **12** and a pair of covers **14**. A top **16** of the housing **12** is open. The covers **14** are hingedly engaged to the housing **12** and are positioned to selectively close the top **16**. The housing **12** and the pair of covers **14** thus define an interior space **18** that is configured to contain an animal, such as a dog or a cat. A plurality of apertures **20** is positioned in the pair of covers **14**. The apertures **20** are configured to vent the interior space **18**, thus providing air circulation to the animal contained in the interior space **18**. The covers **14** are selectively engageable to the housing **12** so that the covers **14** are fixedly positioned over the top **16**. As shown in FIG. **2**, each cover **14** is hingedly engaged to a respective opposed end **22** of the housing **12**. The present invention also anticipates each cover **14** being hingedly engaged to a respective opposed side **24** of the housing **12**.

[0021] A plurality of first fasteners **26** engaged to the housing **12**. A plurality of second fasteners **28** is engaged to the pair of covers **14**. The second fasteners **28** are complementary to the first fasteners **26** so that each second fastener **28** selectively engages a respective first fastener **26** as the covers **14** are hinged closed to fixedly engage the pair of covers **14** to the housing **12**. The second fastener **28** and the respective first fastener **26** may comprise a latch closure **30**, or other closing means, such as, but not limited to, toggle clamps, cam closures, and the like.

[0022] The housing **12** may be substantially rectangular cuboid shaped, as shown in FIG. **2**. The pair of covers **14** may be substantially rectangular frustum shaped when closed over the top **16**. Opposing end facets **32** of the pair of covers **14** may be concavely arcuate when viewed from the interior space **18**. The present invention also anticipate the housing **12** and the covers **14** being alternatively shaped.

[0023] An opening **34** is positioned in a respective opposed end **22** of the housing **12**. A screen **36** is slidably engaged to the housing **12** so that the screen **36** is positioned to selectively cover **14** the opening **34**. The screen **36** may be extensible from a bottom **38** of the housing **12** toward the top **16** of the housing **12**, although the present invention also anticipates the screen **36** sliding toward the bottom **38** or toward either of the opposed sides **24** of the housing **12**.

[0024] A first connector **40** is engaged to the housing **12**. A second connector **42** is engaged to the screen **36** so that second connector **42** is positioned to selectively engage the first connector **40** upon extension of the screen **36** over the opening **34** to retain the screen **36** in position over the opening **34**. The second connector **42** may comprise a ring **44** and the first connector **40** may comprise a hook **46**. The present invention also anticipate the first connector **40** and the second connector **42** comprising other connecting means, such as, but not limited to, latches, hook and loop fasteners, and the like.

[0025] A plurality of wheels **48** is engaged to the bottom **38** of the housing **12**. The plurality of wheels **48** may comprise wheels **48** positioned singly proximate to each corner **50** of the bottom **38**, or other configurations of wheels **48**, such as two wheels **48** positioned on the bottom **38**, or three wheels **48** along each opposed side **24** of the housing **12**. As shown in FIG. **5**, each wheel **48** comprises a castor **52**.

[0026] A pull handle **54** is engaged to and is selectively extensible from the housing **12**. The pull handle **54** is configured to be grasped in a hand of a user, positioning the user to pull on the pull handle **54** to locomote the housing **12** across a surface. The pull handle **54** may comprise a first rod **56**, a bar **58**, and a second rod **60**. The bar **58** is engaged to a first end **62** of the first rod **56**. The bar **58** is slidably engaged to and extends between a pair of rails **64**, which is engaged to the bottom **38** of the housing **12**. The second rod **60** is engaged to a second end **66** of the first rod **56**. The first rod **56** is extensible from the housing **12** upon grasping and pulling upon the second rod **60**. The present invention anticipates the pull handle **54** being extensible from the housing **12** by other extension means, such as, but not limited to, by comprising a plurality of nested section, an articulating arm, or the like.

[0027] Each of a pair of side handles **68** is engaged to a respective opposed side **24** of the housing **12**. The side handles **68** are configured to be grasped in hands of the user, positioning the user for lifting the housing **12**. The present invention also anticipates the side handles **68** being hingedly engaged to the housing **12**.

[0028] A top handle **70** is rotationally engaged to one of the covers **14**. A catch **72** is engaged to the other of the covers **14**. The catch **72** is positioned to selectively engage the top handle **70** as the top handle **70** is rotated so that the top handle **70** is engaged to and extends between the covers **14**.

[0029] In use, the animal containment and transport assembly **10** enables a method **74** of containing and transporting an animal. The method **74** comprises a first step **76** of providing an animal containment and transport assembly **10** according to the specification above. A second step **78** of the method **74** is disengaging the second fasteners **28** from **15** the first fasteners **26**. A third step **80** of the method **74** is hinging the covers **14** open. A fourth step **82** of the method **74** is positioning an animal in the housing **12**. A fifth step **84** of the method **74** is hinging the covers **14** closed so that the second fasteners **28** engage the first fasteners **26**. A sixth step **86** of the method **74** is extending the pull handle **54** from the housing **12**. A seventh step **88** of the method **74** is locomoting the **20** housing **12** and the animal across a surface by pulling on the pull handle **54**.

[0030] With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of an embodiment enabled by the disclosure, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0031] Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the disclosure. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the disclosure to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the disclosure. In this patent document, the word "comprising" is used in its non-limiting sense to mean that items following the word are included, but items not specifically mentioned are not excluded. A reference to an element by the indefinite article "a" does not exclude the possibility that more than one of the element is present, unless the context clearly requires that there be only one of the elements.

1. An animal containment and transport assembly comprising;

a housing, a top of the housing being open, the housing having opposed ends, the housing being elongated between the opposed ends;

a pair of covers hingedly engaged to the housing, such that the covers are positioned for selectively closing the top, such that the housing and the pair of covers define an interior space configured for containing an animal; the covers being selectively engageable to the housing, such that the covers are fixedly positioned over the top, wherein each cover is hingedly engaged to a respective one of the opposed ends of the housing;

a plurality of wheels engaged to a bottom of the housing; and

a pull handle engaged to and selectively extensible from the housing, wherein the pull handle is configured for

grasping in a hand of a user, positioning the user for pulling on the pull handle for locomoting the housing across a surface.

2. (canceled)

3. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **1**, wherein:

the housing is substantially rectangular cuboid shaped; and

the pair of covers is substantially rectangular frustum shaped when closed over the top.

4. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **3**, wherein opposing end facets of the pair of covers are concavely arcuate when viewed front the interior space.

5. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **1**, further including a plurality of apertures positioned in the pair of covers, wherein the apertures are configured for venting the interior space.

6. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **1**, further including:

a plurality of first fasteners engaged to the housing; and

a plurality of second fasteners engaged to the pair of covers, the second fasteners being complementary to the first fasteners, such that each second fastener selectively engages a respective first fastener as the covers are hinged closed for fixedly engaging the pair of covers to the housing.

7. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **6**, wherein the second fastener and the respective first fastener comprise a latch closure.

8. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **1**, further including:

an opening positioned in a respective opposed end of the housing; and

a screen slidably engaged to the housing, such that the screen is positioned for selectively covering the opening.

9. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **8**, wherein the screen is extensible from the bottom of the housing toward the top of the housing.

10. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **8**, further including:

a first connector engaged to the housing; and

a second connector engaged to the screen, such that second connector is positioned for selectively engaging the first connector upon extension of the screen over the opening for retaining the screen in position over the opening.

11. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **10**, wherein:

the second connector comprises a ring; and

the first connector comprises a hook.

12. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **1**, wherein the plurality of wheels comprises wheels positioned singly proximate to each corner of the bottom,

13. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **1**, wherein each wheel comprising a castor.

14. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **1**, wherein the pull handle comprises:

a first rod;

a bar engaged to a first end of the first rod, the bar being slidably engaged to and extending between a pair of rails engaged to the bottom of the housing; and

a second rod engaged to a second end of the first rod, such that the first rod is extensible from the housing upon grasping and pulling upon the second rod.

15. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim **1**, further including a pair of side handles, each side handle being engaged to a respective opposed side of the housing, wherein the side handles are configured for grasping in hands of the user, positioning the user for lifting the housing.

16. The animal containment and transport assembly of claim I, further including:

a top handle rotationally engaged to one of the covers; and

a catch engaged to the other of the covers, such that the catch is positioned for selectively engaging the top handle as the top handle is rotated, such that the top handle is engaged to and extends between the covers.

17. A method of containing and transporting an animal, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an animal containment and transport assembly comprising;

a housing, a top of the housing being open, the housing having opposed ends, the housing being elongated between the opposed ends,

a pair of covers hingedly engaged to the housing, such that the covers are positioned for selectively closing the top, such that the housing and the pair of covers define an interior space configured for containing an animal, wherein each cover is hingedly engaged to a respective one of the opposed ends of the housing. a plurality of first fasteners engaged to the housing; and

a plurality of second fasteners engaged to the pair of covers, the second fasteners being complementary to the first fasteners, such that each second fastener selectively engages a respective first fastener as the covers are hinged closed for fixedly engaging the pair of covers to the housing,

a plurality of wheels engaged to a bottom of the housing, and

a pull handle engaged to and selectively extensible from the housing, wherein the pull handle is configured for grasping in a hand of a user, positioning the user for pulling on the pull handle for locomoting the housing across a surface;

disengaging the second fasteners from the first fasteners;

hinging the covers open;

positioning an animal in the housing;

hinging the covers closed so that the second fasteners engage the first fasteners;

extending the pull handle from the housing; and

locomoting the housing and the animal across a surface by pulling on the pull handle.

18. An animal containment and transport assembly comprising;

a housing, a top of the housing being open, the housing having opposed ends, the housing being elongated between the opposed ends, the housing being substantially rectangular cuboid shaped;

a pair of covers hingedly engaged to the housing, such that the covers are positioned for selectively closing the top, such that the housing and the pair of covers define an interior space configured for containing an animal, the covers being selectively engageable to the housing, such that the covers are fixedly positioned over the top, wherein each cover is hingedly engaged to a respective

one of the opposed ends of the housing, the pair of covers being substantially rectangular frustum shaped when closed over the top, opposing end facets of the pair of covers being concavely arcuate when viewed from the interior space;

a plurality of apertures positioned in the pair of covers, wherein the apertures are configured for venting the interior space;

a plurality of first fasteners engaged to the housing;

a plurality of second fasteners engaged to the pair of covers, the second fasteners being complementary to the first fasteners, such that each second fastener selectively engages a respective first fastener as the covers are hinged closed for fixedly engaging the pair of covers to the housing, the second. fastener and the respective first fastener comprising a latch closure;

an opening positioned in a respective opposed end of the housing;

a screen slidably engaged to the housing, such that the screen is positioned for selectively covering the opening, the screen being extensible from a bottom of the housing toward the top of the housing;

a first connector engaged to the housing;

a second connector engaged to the screen, such that second connector is positioned for selectively engaging the first connector upon extension of the screen over the opening for retaining the screen in position over the opening, the second connector comprising a ring, the first connector comprising a hook;

a plurality of wheels engaged to the bottom of the housing, the plurality of wheels comprising wheels positioned singly proximate to each corner of the bottom, each wheel comprising a castor;

a pull handle engaged to and selectively extensible from the housing, wherein the pull handle is configured for grasping in a hand of a user, positioning the user for pulling on the pull handle for locomoting the housing across a surface, the pull handle comprising:

a first rod, a bar engaged to a first end of the first rod, the bar being slidably engaged to and extending between a pair of rails engaged to the bottom of the housing, and

a second rod engaged to a second end of the first rod, such that the first rod is extensible from the housing upon grasping and pulling upon the second rod;

a pair of side handles, each side handle being engaged to a respective opposed side of the housing, wherein the side handles are configured for grasping in hands of the user, positioning the user for lifting the housing;

a top handle rotationally engaged to one of the covers; and

a catch engaged to the other of the covers, such that the catch is positioned for selectively engaging the top handle as the top handle is rotated, such that the top handle is engaged to and extends between the covers,

* * * * *